

# Press Release



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## DBED LAUNCHES ONLINE TOOLS FOR MARYLAND BUSINESSES

BALTIMORE, MD (May 13, 2009) – In an effort to better connect Maryland's businesses with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) opportunities, as well as State and local funding programs and business resources, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) Secretary Christian S. Johansson today announced the launch of two online tools available at [www.choosemaryland.org](http://www.choosemaryland.org). The **Maryland Business Connection** offers businesses a comprehensive online resource guide to Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City, including information on how to access capital, do business with Maryland's federal facilities, market products/services and recruit and train employees. In addition, DBED launched the **ARRA Business Connection**, which helps connect Maryland businesses with federal stimulus contracting opportunities, as well as provide information on upcoming ARRA events and workshops.

"One of the most important things we can do to put Maryland families first and create jobs for Maryland citizens is maximize every opportunity offered by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Maryland was among the first states to establish a strategic plan for how to use these critical funds and these new web tools are another resource for news and information."

"Since more than 90 percent of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds benefits the private sector, DBED is taking an aggressive role in helping Maryland businesses take advantage of this unprecedented number of State and Federal contracts," said Secretary Johansson. "In addition, the launch of the Maryland Business Connection now gives Maryland business owners a one-stop shop to all state and local resources, making growing your business here that much easier."

"These are challenging times for us all, but especially for small business owners. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) takes its role in the ARRA very seriously," said Stephen D. Umberger, District Director, Baltimore District Office, U.S. Small Business Administration. "The ARRA expands our access to capital programs and increases the financing options available to the small business community. We are fortunate to have such a strong resource partner in DBED and look forward to introducing their online tools to our customers."

DBED's launch of these new online tools is the latest in a series of efforts to assist Maryland business owners during this downturn in the economy. This week, DBED, in partnership with the Capital Formation Institute and Mentor Capital Partners, is hosting the second of a three-part series of Credit Crisis Rx workshops at the University of Baltimore, Merrick School of Business. The workshops are designed to help Maryland's small and medium-sized businesses navigate the current national credit crisis and feature top executives from Maryland's leading corporate and commercial banks to discuss bank credit markets and provide tips on bank credit strategies. The May 14<sup>th</sup> session will focus on "What to Do When Your Bank Says No;" and the May 21 workshop will focus on "Bridging the Gap When Debt Financing Isn't Enough." For more information or to register, call 405-824-5549 or visit [www.choosemaryland.org](http://www.choosemaryland.org).

**About DBED:**

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. Because they are major economic generators, the Department also supports the Arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit [www.choosemaryland.org](http://www.choosemaryland.org)